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9 March 1959

Dear Bob:

1. I hadn't seen this one before, so here is another "Dear Bob" letter, meant for "your eyes only." These three pages and 10 paragraphs (I presume they are paragraphs) are an excellent set of balloon captions for an educational comic book to be distributed by USIA.

2. If more serious use is intended -- and judging from the letter-head of the covering memorandum I can reach no other conclusion -- I earnestly suggest that these following minor changes be made:

a) Para. 1: "As Kissinger has pointed out . . ." This opening phrase lends a note of authority and competence, so often lacking in NSC documents. I suggest that it be retained at all costs. It matters not who is Kissinger, nor whether or not he has, in this sentence or any other brought forth upon this continent a new light. Authority and competence are establish^{ed}, and, incidentally, the author is revealed as a man with far too much spare time to be released from his reading. (I'm not a scholar, but my bowels tell me that this thought, applied to other "enemies," can be found in Clausewitz, the Bible, and Pogo.)

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b) With respect to the phrase "one American boy's life," I can only view with alarm the apparent new practice of retaining congressional ghost speech writers for drafting NSC papers. During my basic training days I had an old pro drill master named Klobberman who made one lasting impression upon me -- "You ain't boys or guys or fellas no more. In the army there's only two kinds'a human beans -- officers an' MEN! An' you ain't officers."

c) Para. 3: "Today we live in a small world where weapons are so destructive that it is mankind's understandable concern to avoid wars . . ." Die for this one, Bob old boy, die for it. There's an idea worthy of Kissinger. I wish I'd thought of it.

d) Para. 3: "They came to realize that every shell which landed on those islands exploded politically in their own faces." I suggest a master counterstroke certain to crush the communist grip on the China Mainland. Invite those poor people to bring their horribly mangled political faces to Walter Reed for plastic surgery.

e) Para. 6: Suggest the following change in sentence one to make it conform to the rest of the paragraph: "The GRC [is] was amenable to reasonable proposals which safeguard free China's interests."

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f) Para. 9: last line: "a more general fateful attack might have followed, with fateful general consequences for all." This simple change eliminates the only cliché in this phrase, and since both words contain exactly seven letters the change can be made without causing the boys down in the composing room to stack their blows.

g) Para. 10: Suggest dropping all except the first sentence and the last sentence(?). This closes the section on the upbeat, and leaves the reader.


J.K.K.

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